

# POTOSI JOURNAL

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The present status of the war in Europe seems to be which of the belligerents can lie the biggest over its "successes."

A New York lawyer who died the other day left a fortune of six million dollars. This also tells the story of what his clients will leave.

Things must be looking up for the young Republicans of Missouri. They propose to eat in St. Louis on February 12th at a cost of \$2.50 the eat.

The indications now are that we will have no "free" sugar in 1916. We hope not, we find we always have to pay higher than ever for what the Democrats put on the free list.

Poland is now calling on the United States for relief for its suffering non-combatants. Taking care of all the war sufferers in Europe is throwing a little too much of the burden on us.

The President says the maze of interrogation points is clearing. We fail to see it. The people are asking more and more why it became so different as soon as the Democratic party got in again.

The Democrats up at Jefferson City are not worrying much over the proof that the present state administration is extravagant, they know the people stand for this thing every two years. Missouri is Democratic, so let the tail go with the hide.

The Hon. Carter M. Buford, state senator from this district, is opposed to any measure prohibiting the employment of relatives of state officials in subordinate positions. Incidentally, Senator Buford has two sons on the senate payroll.

The war tax is here to stay for some time, and the indications are that it will either have to be extended in its scope or the Wilson administration will soon have to sell bonds to get money enough to run the government. Great is Democratic rule!

Manager Rickey of the St. Louis Browns says his chief trouble is finding ball players who are ripe. The trouble with the Browns in past seasons has been that they were loaded with a lot of players that were over-ripe—rotten, in fact.

If we were to have state election this year Missouri would undoubtedly go Republican, but by this time next year the Democrats will be counting on the probable fact that Democrats will take the party's delinquency in managing the state's affairs as a matter of course, and vote 'er straight as usual.

When a Democratic congressman rises in the House and demands the restoration of some of that old robber tariff for the revival of industry in his district and the welfare and happiness of his constituents it is a pretty good vindication of the protective policy of the Republican party. That is what happened in the House one day last week.

It appears that notwithstanding the war tax the Wilson administration is still facing a heavy treasury deficit and the Democratic statesmen are casting about for means to overcome it. This, one way or another, will mean more taxes, for it is not in the nature of the Democratic party to hold the expenses of the government within the revenues.

The Harry Thaw case has taken a peculiar turn. Thaw is to be tried in New York shortly on a charge of conspiracy to escape from prison, and should he be convicted, the verdict will prove that he was sane at the time the alleged offense was committed, for as an insane man he would not be responsible to the law for the act of escaping from a prison for the criminal insane. If he was sane at the time the act was

committed, he was illegally confined in the institution. Should he be convicted as a jail breaker and serve his sentence, we don't see how the law will have any further hold upon him.

What are the new federal reserve banks doing? We hear nothing much of them or from them of late. We were led to believe by the Democrats that the establishment of the reserve banks would cause a general loosening up of money throughout the country and that business would boom as a result. Money is not loose nowadays, in fact, banks are holding it tighter than before. Business is not booming anywhere. The federal reserve act, like the new tariff law, is not living up to promise. The whole program of the Wilson administration has gone so awry that even Democrats are losing faith in it.

Some of the biggest men in opposition to the ship purchasing scheme of President Wilson say the proposition is loaded with trouble for this country. It would involve us in war, they say, with England and her allies, should the ships purchased be those of Germany and Austria, now interned at our ports. England, it seems, has already made a protest against the purchase of such ships. The administration evidently intends to force the ship purchase bill through Congress, let come what may. Would not a foreign war be welcome to the Democrats just now? They see their hold on the reins of power slipping, and maybe this shipping scheme is gotten up to start something that will bring the people forward in the spirit of patriotism to "hold up the hands" of the President and keep the Democrats in the jobs for another term.

While it may seem like knocking our own interests, we want to say that we don't fancy the bill introduced in the House by Representative Dumm, of Cole County, which, if it passes, will require the publication of the session acts in one or more newspapers in each county immediately after the adjournment of the Legislature. The Secretary of State is given power to select the paper which is to publish this matter. The whole proposition looks to us much like a raid on the state treasury for the benefit of the Democratic newspapers, with a sop thrown to the opposition papers to keep them quiet. The bill stipulates that the rate of payment to the papers selected by the Secretary of State shall be that fixed by law—one dollar per legal square. This would give the favored paper a neat little graft running anywhere from \$500 to \$1000. Of course, under the present regime all such papers would be Democratic. Then to soothe the envy of such papers as are not in on the graft, the bill provides that any other paper that has been established five years or more may also publish this matter, for which it will be paid one hundred dollars, out of the state treasury, of course. How a law which fixes two prices for the same work would stand the constitutional test is questionable. Also, we cannot but wonder what peculiar discernment of the drawers of the bill has led them to the conclusion that publication of the session acts in one paper, designated by a partisan official, should be worth so much more than when published by another paper. The bill is simply rotten with graft. We don't object so much to the publication of the session acts in newspapers, but if one paper can print them for \$100, we see no reason why more should be paid to another paper.

The Retort Courteous.  
Britannia—It will be a cold day when I cease to rule the waves.  
Germany—The kind of day you meet the enemy in Chile waters?—Baltimore American.

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## Wasn't There to Work.

A Democratic member of the Missouri legislature who was responsible for the appointment of a young woman to a clerkship who is living fashionably with relatives at a Jefferson City hotel, summoned her to the capitol.

"Why did you send for me?" she demanded.

"I wanted you here to do some work," said the member.

"I did not come to Jefferson City to work," the young woman replied as she flounced out to attend a tango tea.

There are a number of young women and men spending the social season at the state capital this winter, each of whom is drawing \$3.50 per day from the state treasury to pay the expenses of their social whirl.

## Young Republicans Will Banquet.

All arrangements have been completed for the Sixteenth Annual banquet of the Association of Young Republicans, which will be held at Moultrie hotel, St. Louis, Friday evening, February 12th. It is expected that the capacity of the new Moultrie Temple which has been secured for the occasion will be taxed to the utmost.

An exceptionally splendid program has been arranged, and every indication is that the greatest celebration in the history of the Association will be held. The "keynote" of the national campaign of 1916 will be sounded at the banquet.

This will be no "dollar dinner" affair, the price per plate being \$2.50.

The Republican Editorial Association of Missouri will hold its annual meeting in St. Louis on the same day.

## A New Deficit Looms.

In spite of the so-called war tax, estimated to yield \$90,000,000 a year, the administration is confronted with an additional deficit and the president and cabinet are wrestling with ways and means of overcoming it. The additional deficit is estimated at \$30,000,000. This does not include the proposed expenditure for the government's venture in the shipping business. That \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 is to be raised by the sale of Panama bonds, there seeming to be less fear of the demoralizing effect of such sale than the president felt at the time he urged Congress to levy the so-called war tax. The dispatches indicate that two plans of meeting the emergency are under consideration, both of which may be adopted. One would reduce the appropriations in the new rivers and harbors bill and the other would lower the exemption of the income tax.

The Treasury Department has adopted a regulation which, if upheld by the courts, will add to receipts from the income tax. It would prohibit the deduction of losses actually sustained during the year unless such losses arose from the regular trade or business of the income tax payer. But an income tax would have to be paid on all gains during the year, whatever their source. To use a concrete illustration, a lawyer who made \$50,000 on real estate speculations during the year would pay an income tax on the same. But if he lost \$50,000 he would get no deduction. An individual regularly engaged in the real estate business would be privileged to deduct his losses from his gains. The department very properly holds that the gains and losses must be real, determined by closed transactions and not merely computations from market quotations. While purely administrative regulations have all the force of a statute, this novel rule affects the very essence of the income tax law and will be questioned in the courts. It surely will not be upheld, for it violates every rule of common sense, even as it finds no support in the language of the statute, interpreted by ordinary rules.

A few days ago we commented

on the annual report of the Department of Commerce showing the total values of exports and imports for the calendar year, 1914. This report showed that the total value of imports was only \$3,574,054 less than for the preceding calendar year. We argued from this fact that the war tax was not a war tax at all but a deficit tax, due to a combination of Democratic blundering and Democratic extravagance. Our esteemed morning contemporary, which poses as the greatest living specialist on general miscellany, reproached us, arguing that the "war tax" was a precautionary measure which was due to a fear of "further disorganization of the carrying trade on the high seas as might unfavorably affect revenues." But any hope that the discovery that this fear was unfounded might result in a repeal of the "precautionary" war tax is dispelled by the effort of the administration to levy still further taxes.—Globe Democrat.

## Twelve—Dum and Tweedle-dee.

Only a short time ago it was explained that it was the swift operations of the law of supply and demand that sent the prices of wheat and flour scurrying into the clouds. A few days ago this was denied and the explanation made that supply and demand have nothing to do with it, but that a crowd of crazy, criminal speculators in Chicago are responsible. So that if we are to take both explanations all we need to do to protect ourselves from the flying prices in wheat and flour is to abolish or hold in suspension the law of supply and demand with one hand while we choke the speculators to death with the other.

This brings the mind of the observant citizen back to the explanation made last winter about the high prices of apples in the face of a phenomenal crop. It was that the big crop was taken up by a demand from Europe that was just as phenomenal as the crop itself. That settled the point at the time, but along in 1914 there was another remarkable crop of apples and the ingenious, naive, childish or imbecile explanation was made that apples held their prices high this winter because there was no demand from Europe.

The only way to talk in friendly vein with men like this is to use a good, stout club, one that will crack a hard skull without splintering.—Pittsburg Leaders.

Circumstantial Evidence.  
"I see the Turks have proclaimed a blanket war."  
"Then they must be preparing for a winter campaign."

Good Reasons.  
"Why did you throw up that job I got you as collector for Jones?"  
"Why, hang it, I owed money to about all the men he sent me to dun."

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Mexican Fable Has a Moral That is Worth Some Little Consideration.

Here is a story with a moral which is a popular favorite in Mexico: "Juan," said the father, "I will die pretty soon. All I can leave you is the little burro and a single bit of good advice. This is 'never attempt to have people satisfied with your conduct.'"

"Why?"  
"Come and see."  
The boy began to walk; then came the burro, and behind the old man.

"How stupid," the men said. "Why do they not ride on the burro? No doubt the burro will ride on them tomorrow."

Both the old man and Juan heard this. Then the old man said: "Now look here, my son, jump on the burro and I will drive him."

They reached another town. People who saw them exclaimed: "The old man must be crazy and the boy is a 'sin verguenza.'"

"Did you hear that?" the old man questioned.

"Yes, father."

"Well, now I will ride the burro and you will drive him."

Another town was reached. Three men were passing by and one of them said: "Never in my life did I see such a man; he is riding on the burro and lets the poor little boy march on foot. That is atrocious."

"Did you hear that?"

"Yes, father."

"Well, never from now on try to have people satisfied with your conduct."

Extraordinary Skid.

One of the most remarkable escapes from sudden death which relieves the grim record of fatal accidents in automobile racing, occurred at Brooklands, the famous English speed course, recently. When approaching a turn at an estimated speed of 119 miles an hour, a tire exploded and the car skidded sideways. For 80 yards the car tore up the track broadside on, and then in quick succession turned two backward loops. By this time the banking of the track at the curve was before the occupants of the car, and up this slope the car ran backward to the very edge. The driver, who had declatched when the car started skidding, suddenly accelerated the engine, the clutch going in with a bang. Strips from the burst tire had become entangled in the chain, locking the right-hand wheel. The sudden acceleration tore these strips away, and down the embankment the car plunged, turning another loop, this time head-on, and dashed off the track, bringing up safely in a plowed ground near by.

No Rule of Reason There.

Speaking of the rule of reason being read into the law, a lawyer recalled a famous case the other day in which the rule of reason had been read out of an agreement.

An ancient conqueror captured an enemy's fleet. When peace terms were arranged one of the terms was that half the ships of the fleet should be returned to the conquered country. The conqueror kept faith literally, but without "the rule of reason." He had each ship, a war galley, cut in two, and sent back to the enemy one-half of each.

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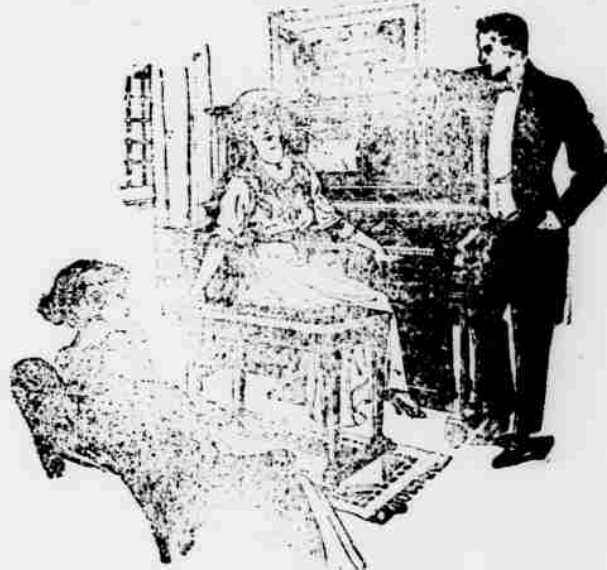
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A PIANO is always a fascination—particularly to the person who loves music, but is not a musician; that is, not a trained musician.

Can you play the piano? How often, though, do you sit down and "pick out" with one finger the melody of some composition of which you are fond, and always turn away with a suppressed wish that you could play!

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